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Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: 2022050430

Project Title: Amendments to Rule 9-4 and Rule 9-6

Lead Agency: Bay Area Air Quality Management District

Contact Name: Jennifer Elwell

Email: jelwell@baaqmd.gov Phone Number: (415) 749-8732

Project Location: 9 bay area county jurisdiction

City *County*

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

Air District staff is proposing amendments to Rules 9-4 and 9-6 which govern appliance point of sale emissions standards. Rule 9-4 applies to the natural gas-fired space-heating furnaces commonly found in single-family homes, and Rule 9-6 applies to natural gas-fired water heaters commonly found in residential and commercial applications. Space and water-heating appliances generate a large portion of nitrogen oxide (NOX) emissions from sources in the Bay Area. NOx is formed during natural gas combustion when ambient nitrogen and oxygen combine at high temperatures. The proposed amendments would substantially reduce NOX emissions from these appliances.The proposed amendments include a zero NOx standard for both space and water heating appliances that would apply when new appliances are sold and installed beginning in 2027. The proposed amendments also include the introduction of an ultra-low NOx standard to Rule 9-4 for furnaces starting in 2024, as well as additional updates to definitions, testing and certification requirements and other clarifications.

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

The Draft EIR for the proposed amendments to Rules 9-4 and 9-6 concluded that impacts associated with Utilities and Service Systems would be potentially significant and unavoidable under the assumption that the replacement of existing natural gas-fired space and water heating appliances over time could result in increased energy demand beyond the existing grid capacity if these existing appliances are replaced with electric appliances. The Draft EIR also concluded that impacts associated with Noise would be potentially significant and unavoidable due to the potential operational noise impacts associated with certain zero NOx equipment.

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.